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THE WHITE HOUSE

February 14, 1985

Executive Registry

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COMPIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTS
The Secretary of State

85-0557

DD/A Registry

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER The Secretary of Defense

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY
The Director of Central Intelligence

GENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: '

Coordination of Measures to Assist in Return of AMCIT Hostage, Jeremy (Jerry) Levin, Cable News Network (CNN) (C)

Cable News Network Bureau Chief, Jerry Levin, who was seized in Beirut on March 7, 1984, is in the process of being repatriated through Damascus. CNN has dispatched an aircraft from Rome and has agreed to deliver Mr. Levin to U.S. authority in Frankfurt, Germany. CNN executives have further agreed that they will coordinate the release of public information with the USG so that the four remaining American kidnap victims are not jeopardized. (C)

It is important that in the hours and days ahead the USG make every effort to facilitate reuniting Mr. Levin with his family and at the same time take the necessary steps to protect the lives/safety of the other American hostages. By agreement among participating agencies, the following measures will be taken by the USG:

The State Department will serve as lead agency for coordinating the return of Mr. Levin. Mr. Terry Arnold (M/CTP) will accompany the Levin party and serve as principal point of contact for this mission. The State Department will also provide appropriate de-briefing and communications specialist/equipment to support, this endeavor. As lead agency, the Department of State will prepare appropriate press guidance and Congressional notification/briefings.

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- The Department of Defense will provide an aircraft to proceed from Washington, DC, to Frankfurt, Germany, and return. The aircrew should be prepared and arrangements should be made for continuation on to Damascus, Syria, in the event that arrangements being made CNN are not successful. A Defense Intelligence Agency specialist should accompany the party when it departs Washington.
- -- The 'Central Intelligence Agency will provide an appropriate de-briefing specialist to accompany the mission.
- -- Diplomatic, intelligence, and military authorities in Europe and the Middle East should be alerted to provide all appropriate assistance in support of this mission.
- -- By agreement among participating departments/agencies, the USG representatives on this mission will be Mr. Terry Arnold (DOS). Mr. Steve Gleason (DOS/SY), (CIA),

(DIA), and a State Department communicator. Accompanying Mrs. Levin will be the two Levin children (Clair and Francis) and the Reverend Landrum Bolling. (C)

Robert C. McFarland

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cc: Edward V. Hickey, Jr.
Assistant to the President and
Director of Special Support Services

Edwin Meese, III Counsellor to the President

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